

Serial No.: 10/054,477
Docket No.: R0052CIP
Amendment Dated June 9, 2005
Responsive to the Office Action dated March 11, 2005

REMARKS

Prior to the present Office Action, claims 1-83 were pending. Claims 1-83 are canceled herewith, and claims 84-115 are added. Therefore, claims 84-115 are presently pending.

5 Invention restriction

Claims 1-83 were subject to the following restriction:

Group I: Claims 1-17, 42, 43-53, 57-63 and 80-83, drawn to a dissecting
endoscope with a blunt transparent tip, classified in class 600, subclass 129.

10 Group II: Claims 18-41, 53-56 and 78-79, drawn to a cannula with a surgical
effector for vessel harvesting, classified in class 600, subclass 114.

Group III: Claims 64-66, drawn to an endoscope with a utilization device,
classified in class 600, subclass 104.

15 Group IV: Claims 67-77, drawn to an endoscope with a cannula, classified in class
604, subclass 164.11.

Applicants elect **without traverse** the invention of Group I drawn to a dissecting
endoscope with a blunt transparent tip. Claims 1-83 have been canceled in favor of new claims
84-115.

20 Please note that support for some of the claims added herein, and in particular claims 84
and 99, derive from the specification of the parent application, Serial No. 09/413,012, filed
October 5, 1999, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/133,136, filed August 12, 1998. The
present application is a continuation-in-part of the parent application, whose specification was
incorporated herein by reference. The text and drawings of the parent application can be actually
25 added to the present specification if deemed necessary.

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Species restriction

The invention of Group I was subject to the following species restriction:

Species A: a dissecting endoscope with a tissue dilator having faceted surfaces
(Figs. 1b, 3a-f, 4)

Species B: a dissecting endoscope with the distal end of the tissue dilator displaced
proximally from the tip (Figs. 2b-c)

Species C: a dissecting endoscope with a press-lock or snap-fit attachment
structure (Figs. 6a-b)

Species D: a dissecting endoscope with a lever-actuated locking device (Fig. 6c)

Accordingly, Applicants elect **without traverse** Species A shown in Figs. 1b, 3a-f, 4.
Claims 84-85, 88-100, and 103-115 read on Species A. Please note that claims 84 and 99 are
generic to the identified Species.

Claims 86 and 101 in Species C are withdrawn pending allowance of a generic base claim.

Claims 87 and 102 in Species D are withdrawn pending allowance of a generic base claim.

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Respectfully submitted,



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